Raising the profile of Information Literacy at the University of Sheffield

The Information Literacy Network
An interdisciplinary special interest group created with the purpose of bringing together key stakeholders in information literacy at the University under the CILASS umbrella.

The Network is chaired by Professor Sheila Corrall from the Department of Information Studies and co-ordinated in partnership with the Library.

It draws upon the strong research and teaching interest in information literacy in the Department, as well as on a range of initiatives in the Library.

IL in the Learning, Teaching & Assessment Strategy
“The Sheffield Graduate can: demonstrate the core capabilities and skills of information literacy, interacting confidently with the nature and structure of information in their subject and handling information in a professional and ethical manner.”

This statement provided the springboard for the IL Network to work with departments on their departmental LTAS through workshops and events.

As a result of these events Town and Regional Planning have written a departmental information literacy strategy.

Partnership with students
Heeding the student voice and encouraging partnership working with students are important features of the IL Network.

Students have acted as IL mentors in departmental CILASS projects.

Students have led IBL sessions for Library staff aimed at increasing staff awareness of the student view of IL and IBL.

Students have participated in ILN workshops at the annual learning and teaching conference at University of Sheffield.

“It was so useful to hear students’ views on library involvement and support”

New Approaches to Learning and Teaching
CILASS funds curriculum development projects at the University of Sheffield in Inquiry-based Learning. The strong focus on Information Literacy within CILASS has led to a number of projects that have developed an inquiry-based pedagogy for information literacy. e.g.

Psychology: Public presentation of Psychology
English: IL through the curriculum
Information Studies: Information literacy through inquiry

Investigating IL competencies and practices
IL Audit project: aim to investigate the integration and progression of Information Literacy in the Department of Information Studies both at programme and module level.

IL competency questionnaires delivered to students to ascertain initial levels of IL competency and gauge success of IL programmes.

Collaborative problem solving with Academic Liaison Librarians and students

Information Skills Tutorials
These are available to every student in MOLE the University of Sheffield virtual learning environment and can be embedded as learning objects in module environments.

The Library works with academics to make and adapt tutorials to the specific needs of students on particular modules.

Guide to the Library catalogue